

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 AID-05 PC-01 CU-02 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /077 W  
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R 161450Z APR 77  
FM AMCONSUL DURBAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2552  
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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EO 116522: NA  
TAGS: PINT, SF  
SUBJ: MAJOR INKATHA RALLY IS SUCCESS FOR BUTHELEZI

1. BETWEEN 50,000 (OUR ESTIMATE) AND 80,000 (A PRESS ESTIMATE) PEOPLE ATTENDED A RALLY APRIL 24 IN KWAMASHU TO CELEBRATE THE APRIL 1ST INCORPORATION OF KWA MASHU INTO KWAZULU. (KWAMASHU IS A BLACK URBAN TOWNSHIP WITH A POPULATION ESTIMATED AT BETWEEN 250,000-400,000 LOCATED LESS THAN 10 MILES FROM CENTER OF DURBAN.) THE RALLY, ORGANIZED BY THE ZULU POLITICAL/CULTURAL ORGANIZATION INKATHA, REPORTEDLY WAS THE LARGEST BLACK POLITICAL GATHERING IN THE HISTORY OF NATAL. ONE NEWS SOURCE TOLD US HE BELEIVES IT TO BE THE LARGEST POLITICAL GATHERING IN THE HISTORY OF SOUTH AFRICA, RIVALED PERHAPS ONLY BY THE OPENING OF THE VOORTREKKER MONUMENT IN PRETORIA. BY COMPARISON BUTHELEZIS FAMOUS SPEECH IN SOWETO IN MARCH 1976, DREW LESS THAN 20,000 PEOPLE.

2. A CONGEN OFFICER AND I OBSERVED LATTER PART OF THE FIVE-HOUR RALLY. WE WERE IMPRESSED BOTH WITH THE SIZE OF CROWD AND INDICATIONS OF A STRONG ORGANIZATION AL EFFORT SEVERAL  
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THOUSAND PARTICIPANTS WORE DISTINCTIVE INKATHA UNIFORMS; THESE INCLUDED A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE, ONE AREA IN WHICH INKATHA'S SUPPORT HAS BEEN SUSPECT. SEVERAL THOUSAND YOUNG MALES ALSO ATTENDED RALLY AS PART OF SEVERAL LOOSELY ORGANIZED "IMPIS". THE TURN-OUT SURPRISED EVEN THE INKATHA LEADERSHIP. CHIEF BUTHELEZI EXPRESSED TO ME HIS ELATION OVER RALLY ATTENDENCE AND HIS SATISFACTION OVER THE ORGANIZATIONAL

EFFORTS OF HIS LIEUTENANTS IN KWAMASHU.

3. ACTIONS OF THE "IMPIS" WERE NOTABLE. THE YOUTHS, CARRYING TRADITIONAL KNOBKERRIES AND SHIELDS NOASSEGAW, SEEMED ANXIOUS FOR A SIGN OF SUPPORT FROM CHIEF BUTHELEZI. WHEN THIS WASN'T IMMEDIATELY FORTHCOMING AT THE OPENING OF THE RALLY THEY BEGAN TO PRESS INTO THE THRONGS SURROUNDING THE PODIUM AND THERE WAS SOME CONCERN THAT THEY WOULD BECOME UNCONTROLLABLE. BUTHELEZI CALMED THE UPROAR AND, AT THE YOUTH'S INSISTENCE, LED THE IMPIS IN A RUN AROUND THE STADIUM, ELECTRIFYING THE CROWD. LATER IN THE DAY IMPIS AGAIN CIRCLED STADIUM, CASTING A DISTINCT PARA-MILITARY IMAGE. UNITED BY WARLIKE TRADITION AND STERN OBEDIENCE TO THEIR LEADERS, AND LIVING ONLY THREE MILES FROM SOME WHITE SUBURBS, THEY MUST BE CAUSE FOR SOME CONCERN AMONG SAG SECURITY OFFICIALS.

4. BUTHELEZI'S SPEECH BROKE NO NEW GROUND. HE WELCOMED KWAMASHU PEOPLE INTO KWAZULU AS AN INDICATION OF THE SPANNING OF RURAL-URBAN BARRIERS. HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT THE ALREADY LOW LEVEL OF GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT THEY HAD BEEN RECEIVING WOULD BE REDUCED STILL FURTHER WITH THEIR INCORPORATION INTO KWAZULU. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE FAULT WAS NOT WITH THE NEW BLACK GOVERNMENT BUT WITH THE BUDGETARY RESTRAINTS IMPOSED BY PRETORIA AS A CONSEQUENCE OF KWAZULU'S REJECTION OF INDEPENDENCE. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED NEED FOR BLACK UNITY BUT STRESSED THAT EACH BLACK ORGANIZATION MUST RESPECT THE STRATEGIES ADOPTED BY THE OTHERS.

5. BUTHELEZI FORECAST TO ME THAT ALTHOUGH THE RALLY WAS A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GENUINELY SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL EVENT, WHITE DURBANITES WOULD HAVE LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF IT. THIS WAS BORNE OUT BY RELATIVELY SCANT PRESS TREATMENT WHICH FOCUSED MAINLY ON BUTHELEZI'S CONTROL OVER HIS IMPIS AND HIS CANTER AT THEIR HEAD. CROWD GAVE OVATION AT MENTION OF NAMES OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND ANDREW YOUNG IN SPEECH BY DR. F. MDLALOSE, MEMBER OF INKATHA NATIONAL EXECUTIVE AND ABOUT-TO-BE IV TRAVELLER TO U.S.  
FARBER

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, PARTY MEETINGS, SPEECHES  
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